

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested. The present amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action of March 9, 2006, in which claims 1-24 are presently pending. Of those, claims 1, 2, 5-9, 12-16 and 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,671,804 to Kent, in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2005/0114666 to Sudia. However, the Examiner has indicated that claim 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been rewritten to incorporate the subject matter from allowable claims 3, 10 and 17 (respectively), including intervening claims 2, 9 and 16. Claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17 are cancelled. Dependent claims 4-6, 11-13, 18-20 and 22-24 are amended to change the dependencies thereof the respective independent claims. Accordingly, each of the independent claims has been placed in allowable form in the present amendment, along with each of the remaining claims dependent therefrom. Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendment, as it places the application in condition for allowance and raises no new issues.

For the above stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered and no additional fees are believed to be required. However, if any fees are due with respect to this Amendment, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 09-0463 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
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